

Madison County Weed Board
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The Regular meeting of the Madison County Weed Board for August 21, 2008 was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Sykes. Present at the meeting were Board members, John Armstrong, Charlie Gilman, Ted Coffman, Program Assistant Dale Grose, Coordinator, Margie N. Edsall, Office Assistant Janie Alt, Compliance Tech, Sam Korsmoe, & Commissioner Dave Schulz. Absent was Chuck Buus.

Charlie made motion to approve the July 17, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. Ted Coffman seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Office & Program : George Meanes, Virginia City Preservation Historical Officer, ask Margie if she would help out if he put together a VC Weed Day. George stated that he would gather volunteers to help. Margie agreed and contacted the Heritage Commission, who also agreed to participate. Roger Williams had also came in and talked with Margie and was hopeful that it would be a good turnout. A date was set for the 5th of August. Margie said it was a disheartening. She stated that neither, George or anyone from the Heritage Commission showed up. There were 3 volunteers from VC. that showed up to pull weeds. Margie said she was very disappointed as she had pulled one of her crew off from spraying the county roads to help out the town of VC, that is in such dyer need of weed management. She said she didn't feel like her or her crew's efforts were validated. Margie said that the Weed Board will start sending out letters to the town of VC property owners

asking for voluntary compliance.

Margie had contacted Paul Reichert, Executive Director of the Heritage Commission & explained to him how bad the infestation of Knapweed & Hoary Alyssum is around the McFarland building & on the state property surrounding it. Paul stated that they had mowed the Hoary Alyssum and thought he could get some individuals to pull the knapweed. Margie said that would be fine but there is way more then they could pull. She offered to contact Diane Rice, Heritage Commission Board member and visit with her to see if she could help get some funding for spraying. Paul had declined and said he would stick with mowing & pulling.

Margie met with Kim Johnson, Department of Ag on August 12th to tour Norwegian/S.Willow Cr, Madison River & Vigilante grant areas. They stopped by the Sheep grazing project and noticed that the State piece South of McAtee Bridge had not been grazed. Margie through email contacted Melissa Griffiths, MVRG on the matter and Melissa stated that it was not grazed because it is State ground and is not included in the project. Margie had then spoke with Mike Mooney, Dillon BLM, to confirm the project area Mike said that there are a few discrepancies from the cooperators on if that state piece was to be grazed or not. Margie and the crew will go in on the 1st and spray that section.

Margie is still trying to get in contact with Will Hogan, Heliworks to line out some fall aerial spraying on VC & Nevada city area, VC Hill area, S.Madison, and a few other areas.

Margie had asked the Board to reschedule the September meeting from the 18th to the 11th Board agreed that would be fine.

Personnel: We have 3 crews still on board. Margie said she will try and keep 2 going as long as the weather will permit.

Equipment: Received \$12,475.00 from insurance for the BLM truck & will budget for another \$10,000.00 for a truck to replace the Madison Unit.

Dale filled the Board in on the progress of the crew and on the maintenance being done on the 4 wheelers.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

Weed Management Plans: There were 2 WMP, 3 Subdivision WMP & 2 updated Subdivision WMP that were approved and signed. Ted made motion to accept all plans as reviewed, John seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Budget: 2140 acct. - \$284,082.96 2840 acct. - \$41,994.04 A budget amendment will have to be made for the remodel or new building needed for Alder shop.

Other New Business Dave Schulz, Commissioner, brought to the Boards attention that Steve DiGiovanna, Communications Coordinator is working with Alltel Communications with the possibility of putting up a tower for better radio reception throughout the county & cell service in the area.

Margie had discussed earlier with Betty about omitting the 2nd notice letter for compliance. She told Betty that too much time passes between sending out the 1st notice and a final notice. The 1st notice states that the landowner has 10 working days within the receipt of the letter and the 2nd notice states that they have 15 days from the date of the letter. She told Betty that most of the landowners don't respond to the 2nd notice therefore a month has gone by before sending out the final which gives them another 10 days from the date of the letter to respond. By that time most applicators are swamped and are too busy and can't get to them or then the growing season is over so we have to wait until the following season to get another letter out to these landowners. By omitting the 2nd notice landowners are more likely to respond after that 1st initial letter stating if they do not respond with a Weed Management Plan within those 10 working days a final notice will be sent stating, if we do not hear from them within the 10 days that they will be put in Non-compliance and the Board will take such action as is necessary to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

The Board agreed that if it's within the law then they think the 2nd notice should be omitted.

Adjourned for lunch 11:45 – Convened at 1:00

Weed Tour: Before lunch Margie presented the Board and Dave with a rough draft & estimated cost of putting up a new building for equipment storage, which she has been pursuing for a couple of months. After touring the old county road shop it was decided that they would remodel that building and use it as storage and possibly temporary offices for Weed Board personnel.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35

Minutes respectively submitted by:
Janie Alt, Office Assistant